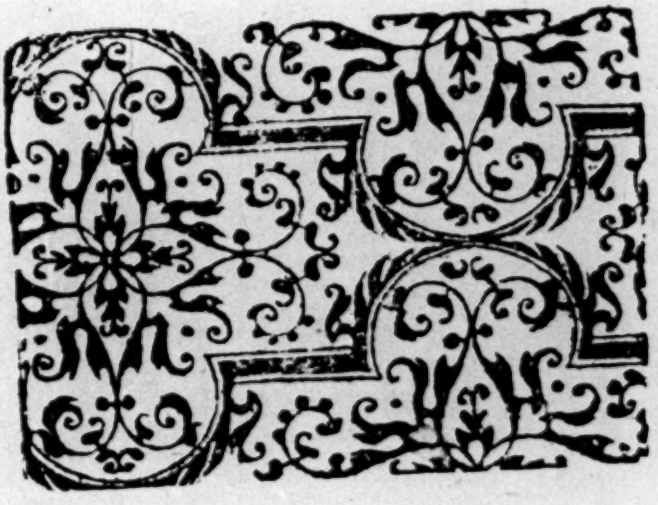
THE WORTH OF WOMEN.



LONDON,
Printed by *William Iones*, dwelling in
Red-croſſe ſtreete.
1622.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE, VERTVOVS AND TRVE RELIGIous Dame, the Ladie ANNE WENTWORTH.

MAruell not Madam that I haue made choice
Of you amongſt all other Princely Dames,
Whoſe ſecret vertue challengeth each voice,
And my poore zeale beyond all others flames.
The firſt oblation of my morning Muſe,
Lo here I offer at your ſacred Shrine:
Which if you pleaſe but graciouſly peruſe,
And ſanctifie with thoſe pure ſtarres diuine,
Whoſe radiant rayes and bright reflecting flame,
May purifie the moſt impoliſht rhime:
And bearing but the Liuery of your name,
Shall liue, deſpight the cankred iawes of time,
And flouriſh like the euerliuing Bay,
When monuments of Marble ſhall decay.

Your Ladiſhips humble
and deuoted ſeruant,

Richard Ferrers.

To the curious Readers.

SVspend your iudgements, censure not in haste:
But ere you iudge the first, first see the last.

May 28. 1622.

THE

THE WORTH OF WOMEN.

1

MY infant *Muſe* that ſlept in ſilence long,
Reſolu'd no more her vntun'd notes to ſing,
Aſham'd to heare the ignominous wrong,
Detracting idle heads did daily bring
Vpon that noble ſexe of women-kinde,
Prepar'd her ſelfe ſome Antidote to finde.

2

Within an humble valley where ſhe lay,
That was with loftie hils inuiron'd round,
Through wch a pleaſant chriſtal brook did play
With pibble ſtones that roled on the ground,
Where chirping birds melodiouſly did ſing,
To entertaine the ſweet refreſhing Spring.

3

There *Philomela* did bewaile the rape
Of wicked *Tereus* that inceſtuous King:
And louely *Læda* in her Swan-like ſhape,
Hid her blacke foote vnder her ſnowie wing.
The mateleſſe Turtle you might alſo ſee
Sit mourning by vpon a Willow tree.

4

Vindictiue *Progne* by her ſelfe alone,
Vpon an old decayed Trunke did keepe,
Vnder the which *Halcyone* did moane
Vpon a buſh, whoſe dolefull note was, Weepe;
And *Pyres* daughters in thoſe pleaſant vales,
Would oft be chattering prety wanton tales.

5

From hence among the lowly Mirtle boughes,
Oretopt with Pines and loftie Cedars tall,
She pearcht her ſelfe and made a ſtately rouze,
Wherewith a quill ſhe from her wing let fall,
Intending now to take a higher flight,
She bids me make a pen, ſit downe & write.

6

Which I obeying, had no ſooner done,
But all the carping-critick-ſquint-eyd rout,
Like dogs to carion did about me runne,
And fortie faults in twentie words found out:
Each ſeuerall humour muſt his cenſure giue,
And at their verdict I muſt die or liue.

7

Their great god *Momus* did no ſooner ſpie
My books rich title, but in heart repining,
Began to draw his goodly mouth awrie,
As if his worſhip had on Plaice bin dining;
Reades ſome few lines, & in a furious ſnuffe
Caſts it aſide, and ſweares 'tis ſimple ſtuffe.

Which

8

Which *Zoilus* ſtraight ſnatcheth vp againe,
And viewing but a vertuous womans name,
Cries, fie vpon this poore mans ſilly vaine,
To reade his booke, it were a burning ſhame:
Whereat the rout of giddie headed geeſe,
Did all beſtow at leaſt a word a peece.

9

One cries, a woman is compoſde of feather;
Another ſweares, their faith is like the winde;
A third, their zeale is made of froſtie weather;
The fourth, a chaſte one neuer yet could finde.
A fig for theſe, ſince better ſpirits know,
Saue ignorance, true knowledge hath no ſo.

10

Emboldned thus my daring Muſe goes on,
Attir'd with naked Truths vnſpotted robe,
And Eagle-like beholds the dazeling Sunne,
Euen in the Apogean of his globe,
To teach theſe Criticks that haue err'd in this,
To know hereafter what a woman is.

11

Know then the woman, God did firſt create,
And with the man in Paradiſe did place,
Was for an helpe when he was deſolate,
Coequall with him in the ſtate of grace.
Out ſtrait cries the multitude, 'twas ſhe:
That pluckt the fruit frō the forbidden tree.

12

Euen heere this rable haue deuiſ'd a lie,
The Serpent pluckt, ſhe gaue the man to eate,
VVho had free will this weake attempt to flie,
Knowing the heauy vengeance God did threat
VVhat time ſoeuer hee this fruite did taſte,
That he ſhould die the death & be diſplac't.

13

Which ſurely followed, for when God did call
For *Adam* as he vſually had done,
He now perceiuing his moſt wretched fall,
From his all-ſeeing preſence would haue run
But finding no eſcape, cry'd out, and ſaid,
I heard thy voice O Lord and was afraid.

14

VVhy haſt thou eate of the forbidden tree,
Which I cómanded thee thou ſhouldſt not ſtir,
He ſaid the woman hath deceiued me;
She pleades the Serpent had beguilled her:
Whē God in iuſtice ſaw their fault was euen,
Both with a curſe from Paradiſe were driuen.

15

Yet ſhortly after ſee how God did bleſſe,
Obedient *Sarah*, *Abrahams* faithfull wife,
And fruitfull made her aged barrenneſſe,
Euen in her latter dying daies of life:
A ſon ſhe doth conceiue within her womb be,
From whom ſhall Kings, & realmes, & nations come.

16

A bleſſed mother of a choſen ſonne,
VVith whom the Lord hath promiſed he will
Eſtabliſh his couenant now beguune,
VVhich *Iſack* is ordained to fulfill
And as with him ſaith God I haue decreed, Gen. 24
So after him for euer with his ſeed. 25.

17

This promiſe God inuiolate will hold,
Which to confirme he doth *Rebeccha* chuſe,
A vertuous woman more eſteem'd then gold,
Whom *Iſack* for his wife doth not refuſe:
From *Eſau* ſhe the bleſſing did obtaine,
To *Iacob* where the couenant doth remaine.

18

And as to *Iſack*, ſo did God prouide
For *Iacob* faithfull women full of zeale, Gen. 29. 30.
Rahell and *Leah* are to him affi'de, (deale:
With whom the Lord moſt graciouſly doth
For being barren, by their prayers conceiue,
Childrē, which they vnto ſucceſſe ſhal leaue.

19

Though wicked *Pharoh* ſtrictly did command Exo. 1.
The Midwiues all men children to deſtroy,
This practiſe they would neuer take in hand,
But did his vild iniunction diſobey:
And durſt no child of his deare life depriue,
But fearing God, preſeru'd them all aliue.

20

Whereat the King with anger them purſues,
Saying, How durſt you my cõmandmẽt breake?
Which matter they ſo wiſely did excuſe,
As that the King had not a word to ſpeake.
Wherfore God proſper'd thẽ in all things wel,
And built thẽ houſes wherin they might dwel.

21

Exod. 2. Now ſee how God miraculouſly wrought,
By *Pharohs* daughter this poore child to ſaue,
Who vnto her by ſtratagem was brought,
Euen by the mercie of a ſenſleſſe waue:
She fearing nought her fathers ſterne decree,
Gaue ſtraight cõmand, it ſhould preſerued be.

22

And by the ſecret prouidence of God,
This infant to his mother doth commend;
The miracle effected by his rod,
His poore oppreſſed people to defend:
The Oceans parting teſtifieth moſt,
Wherein did periſh *Pharoh* and his hoaſt.

23

Ioſ. 2. Behold, the Lord a woman chuſeth out,
In all the towne, his ſecret Spies to hide;
Who being ſtraight examin'd thereabout,
With conſtant zeale ſhe ſeruently denide,
And cloſely them into a roofe conuayd,
Who otherwiſe their liues had ſurely payd.

And

24

And euen about the deadeſt time of night,
Out at a window ſhe doth them conuay,
And to the woods aduiſd them take their flight,
That ſo the ſpies might miſſe them on the way:
For wch good deed (as God had thē inſpir'd)
They faithfully performe what ſhe deſir'd.

25

His care of women he doth here expreſſe, Exo. 22.
With ſpeciall charge the widowes to defend,
And not to hurt the children fatherleſſe,
For I ſhall heare (ſaith he) their cries aſcend;
Then with ỹ ſword I wil your liues bereaue,
And children orphants with your widows (leaue.

26

A moſt renowned woman next we find, Iudg. 4.
A famous Iudge and ſacred Propheteſſe; 45.
She vnto euery Iſraelite aſſign'd
His equall portion, were it more or leſſe:
Vnder a Palme in Ephraim ſhe abode,
And iudg'd according to the will of God.

27

To field ſhe doth the Prophet *Barak* call,
Againſt the King of Canans mightie band,
Foreteiling him that *Siſera* ſhould fall;
For God will ſurely giue him to thine hand.
And *Barak* anſwering, ſaid, I will not go,
Except thou likewiſe go with me alſo.

Then

28

Then *Deborah* with *Barak* went along
Vnto mount Tabor where a while they ſtay;
Till *Siſera* with men and chariots ſtrong,
Did call him downe where *Deborah* did ſay
To *Barak*, feare not, God for thee doth fight
And *Siſera* this day ſhall put to flight.

29

But to a woman he ſhall giue the fame,
For thy weake faith, which elſe to thee was due
The wife of *Heber*, *Iael* was her name,
That with a naile this famous Captaine ſlue:
For which the Lord hath ſaid, ſhe ſhalbe bleſt
Aboue all women that in tents doe reſt.

30

Thus God deliuered Canan to the hands
Of Iſrael, to *Deborahs* great fame,
Who while their townes depopulated ſtands,
An happy mother ſhe to them became,
For many kings went forth with her to fight
And Iſraell grew happy in her ſight.

31

A cheerful ſong ſhe with the King doth ſtrait,
Iudg. 5. Vnto her God with warbled notes record,
Hearken ô Kings giue eare you Princes great,
The mountaines melted from before the Lord:
Yea euen Sinai at his voice did melt, (felt.
The heauens did drop, the earth his thunder

The

32

The wife of *Monoah* being barren long,
God by his Angells moſt diuinely bleſt,
With ſuch a ſonne as is not found among
The Nazarites with heauenly ſtrength poſſeſt:
Wherewith he ſhal begin to break the bands
And Iſraell ſaue from the Philiſtians hands.

33

Now *Monoah*, (as the Angell did commaund)
Vnto the Alter with his offering came,
Where while it burnt, his wife & he did ſtand,
The Angell loe aſcended in the flame:
And *Monoah* told his wife there ſtanding by
We haue ſeene God and wee ſhal ſurely die.

34

The faithfull woman comforts him and ſaies,
And if the Lord intended vs to kill,
He would not then accept the thanks & praiſe
Wee offer here according to his will:
Now God did bleſſe this child to be a man,
And made him mighty in the hoſt of *Dan*.

35

Of *Naomy* and *Ruth* what tongue can tell, Ruth. 2. 34.
The tender loue they each to other beare,
Together would they goe, together dwell,
Together they the Lord did ſerue and feare:
Together they would laugh, together cry,
Together liue, and eke together die.

And

36

And *Naomy* with feruent zeale did pray
Vnto the Lord, that of his mercie great,
He would on *Ruth* his louing fauour lay:
Who heard her prayer from his tribunall ſeate,
And graciouſly his bleſſings he beſtowes,
As ſhe was gleaning in the field of *Boez*.

37

A mightie man with riches great poſſeſt,
VVhom God inſpired with an ardent flame
Of faithfull loue, which could not be ſuppreſt,
Vntill an husband he to *Ruth* became:
Frō whō (by his decree, whoſe acts are wiſe)
A bleſſed generation doth ariſe.

38

1.Sa.1. A liuely patterne of rare faith indeed,
In barren *Hannah* we may here behold,
With teares which frō a contrite heart proceed,
Vnto the Lord ſhe doth her griefe vnfold,
VVith feruent prayer ſhe might a ſon obtain,
Vowing to giue him to the Lord againe.

39

God heard her praier, and granted her requeſt,
She doth conceiue and eke bring forth a ſonne,
Wch brought her diſcontēted thoughts to reſt,
She magnifide the Lord for what was done:
And to the Altar where all knees do bow,
She brought the child, & there performd her

(vow.

40

A true Idea of a vertuous wife, 1.Sam.
In *Abigail* is worthily expreſt, 25.
VVho by her wiſedome ſau'd her husbands life
From *Dauids* iuſt reuenge, and all the reſt,
Whē he had vowd of *Nabals* houſe, there ſhal
Not one be left to piſſe againſt the wall.

41

And ſhortly after, God did *Nabal* ſmite
VVith ſickneſſe, whereof preſently he died:
Then *Dauid* ſaid: Bleſt be the God of might,
That hath my hands to ſhed his blood denide,
By her aduice, whoſe loue he now purſues,
And for her vertue to his wife doth chuſe.

42

Vnſpotted *Tamar* in a brothers power, 2 Sam.
On whō ſhe thought ſhe might her life depend, 13.
Whilſt he inhumanely did her defloure,
See how ſhe mourns for what ſhe cānot mend:
Her clothes ſhe rent, & duſt & aſhes throws
Vpon her head, thus deſolate ſhe goes.

43

Bathſheba by the Prophet is inſpir'd, 1.Kin.1.
To moue the King that *Salomon* might raigne
Alone (no doubt) the higheſt heauens deſir'd,
Ordaining her the ſubiect to obtaine:
VVhich well appear'd by his diuine ſucceſſe,
God did with wiſedom, riches, honor bleſſe.

So

44

Kin. 10. So rare that from the wild Arabian south,
The Queene of *Sheha* iourned many daies,
To learne sage wisdom frō that sapient mouth
To her immortall euerlasting praise:
Wch whē she did with wonder great behold
She gaue him spices, precious stones & gold.

45

And blest, saith she, be God which doth delight
In thee O King, and of his mercy great,
That so his people may be iudg'd aright,
Hath thee inuested in the iudgment seate:
Luk. 11. 10. 31. This womā shal (saith God) in iudgment rise
Against those people did their Lord despise.

46

How highly God of women doth esteeme,
1. Kin. 17. The widow of Sarepta sheweth plaine,
Wch widow poore ỹ Lord doth worthy deeme
The holy man *Eliah* to sustaine:
When famine sore the country did oppresse,
By miracle he doth this woman blesse.

47

A little oyle she had within a cruse,
And meale likewise to make a cake withall,
VVhereby herselfe she iustly doth excuse,
Vnto the Prophet who for bread doth call:
Loe this is all is left my sonne and I,
VVhich I am dressing, we may eate and die.

Eliah

48

Eliah ſaid, woman be not afraid,
Make firſt a cake and bring it vnto me,
The meale is in thy barrell God hath ſaid,
Nor yet the oyle ſhall euer waſted be,
Vntil the time the Lord doth ſend forth raine
The earth with plenty to poſſeſſe againe.

49

And ſhe vnto *Eliah* brought a cake,
Then for her ſelfe & ſonne did likewiſe dreſſe,
And many daies did this prouiſion make,
And yet her meale and oyle was not the leſſe:
And to confirm her faith ſtil more & more,
Her ſonne deceaſt, he doth to life reſtore.

50

An other widow ſtraight the Lord hath found
On whom he doth moſt plenteouſly beſtow, 2.Kin.4
A miracle for euer to be crown'd,
Her veſſells all with oyle doth ouerflow:
And ceaſed not vntill the woman ſaid,
My veſſells all are full, and then it ſtaid.

51

Then came ſhe to the man of God, and told
The bleſſings which ſhe had receiu'd that day,
Eliah ſaid, ſtraight let the oyle be ſold,
Wherewith thou mai'ſt thy creditors go pay:
And as the Lord this day thy ſtate hath bleſt
So keepe thy ſelfe & children with the reſt.

52

The faithfull Shunamite deserueth well,
To be recorded with this sacred crue,
Who did the holy man of God compell,
To eate with her at euery season due:
And seriously her husband doth inuite,
To build a roome, where he might lodge all (night.

53

Wherefore *Eliah* prayed vnto the Lord,
She being barren, and her husband olde,
To make her fruitfull, and he doth accord,
The Prophet cald the Shunamite, and told:
For this good deed, wch thou to me hast done
Thou shalt conceiue, & eke bring forth a son.

54

And in due time this miracle was wrought,
By his great power, that rules the starrie skie,
A ioyfull sonne into the world she brought,
Which shortly after happened to die:
Hereby to show his loue doth neuer cease,
To life he doth this child from death release.

55

Hest. 14 What title shall I giue this happy Queene,
Whose sacred worth, her state doth far exceed,
No eare hath heard, nor wādring eye hath seen
An act more bloudy, then is here decreed:
Her people all should be destroyd and slain,
Whose prayer and fasting did their liues ob- (taine.

56

Of Prouinces one hundred twenty ſeuen,
The Iews ſhould die, the King had giuē & ſeald
Which was oppoſed by the powerfull heauen,
And at this gracious Queenes requeſt repeal'd:
And to a ſhamefull end the man ſhe brought
That ſhould this bloudy maſſacre haue (wrought.

57

Thus *Heſter* by the Lords out ſtretched arme,
Who neuer failes them that in him doe truſt,
Preſeru'd her people from this wofull harme,
And brought their foes euen down in the duſt:
For as they thought ỹ Iewes to deale withall,
The ſame reuenge vpon their heads did fall.

58

When *Sarah* whom her fathers maides diſpiſe, Tob. 3.
Was ouercome with hearts oppreſſing griefe,
Vnto the Lord for ſuccour ſtrait ſhe flies,
Who heard her prayer, & granted her releiſe:
And husband of his grace, he doth ordaine,
Wch into mirth, her mourning turn'd again.

59

If wiſdome, valor, worth, and zeale were loſt, Iudith. 13.
And this rare patterne onely did remaine,
The world can ſcarce, of ſuch another boaſt,
Whereby it might redeeme them all againe:
Who by her prayer, obtain'd from Gods high hand,
To ſaue a Cittie, and preſerue a Land.

60

First duſt and aſhes on her head ſhe throwes,
And all in ſackcloth ſhe doth faſt and pray,
Then into *Olofernes* campe ſhe goes,
Where ſhe this famous Captaine doth betray:
With courage ſtout, & wiſdom rare ſhe vſ'd,
His head ſhe brought, wch al the land excuſ'd.

61

Then did ſhe call the Elders of the Towne,
Saying behold what God for you hath done,
With ſtately wreathes, they did her ſtraight way crowne,
And euery where with ſhoutes of ioy did run:
The riches great of *Olofernes* tent,
With one accord they doe to her preſent.

62

Thus while ſhe was extold, and magnifi'd,
Whom euery eie with wonder did behold,
Vnto the Temple of the Lord ſhe hi'd,
And off'ring all this wealth of plate and gold:
With humble zeale before the Alter bowes,
Vnto the Lord, & thus perform'd her vowes.

63

A mirrour of a chaſt religious wife,
Is faire *Suſanna*, being ſore diſtreſt,
Who rather choſe to looſe her deareſt life,
Then yeild vnto the Elders vild requeſt:
Loe thus reſolu'd, aloud for helpe did cry,
And falſe accuſ'd, ſhe is condemned to die.

But

64

But ſee how God did graciouſly prouide,
To ſaue this woman by a childes decree,
Who did the Elders ſeuerally deuide,
And found them both in ſeuerall tales to be:
For wch vnworthy deed, their liues they pay
To her great honor, who they did betray.

65

A woman more then wonderful behold,
Whoſe reſolutions ſo vndanted are,
As by no earthly power, can be control'd,
More permanent then any fixed ſtarre
Within the Spheare, of that celiſtiall round,
To whom fames trumpet giues the loudeſt (ſound.

66

Seuen ſons ſhe had, who by the Kings cõmand,
Becauſe they would not his beheſts obey,
To violate the cuſtome of their land,
Were all adiudg'd their deareſt liues to pay
By ſundry tortures, which ſhe ſeeing plaine,
Imboldned them, ſtill conſtant to remaine.

67

When ſix of them, the Tirant had deſtroy'd,
He wild his mother, moue the ſeuenth to turne
That ſo he might this cruell death auoid,
In ſtead whereof, ſhe bids him boldly burne:
And Martyr-like, the Tirants rage defie,
Thus with his brothers he doth brauely die.

68

Like *Hecuba* for death of *Pryam* old,
The mother now all tearmes of life defi'd,
VVith courage greater then *Shenola* bold,
And thus this euer honored Martir di'd:
Where we will leaue thē to ỹ world to mourn,
And to our Grandame *Eue*, againe returne.

69

And there behold, the race poore man had run
VVhen God & Angells did him both forsake,
Fit for precipice thou wert vndone,
And could'st no way, a good attonment make:
Till this rare creature thou dispisest so,
VVas chosen out, to mittigate thy woe.

70

Luk. 1. Assist me now ye sacred Sisters nine,
30.27. That I with reuerence may her praises sing,
28.29. VVho was elected by the powers deuine,
30. A sanctifi'd and blessed birth to bring:
VVhen man to sin was subiect, & to thrall,
Became a sweet redemption for vs all.

71

For euer blessed be that glorious name,
Which God & Angells haue pronounced blest
Frō whose deare loins, our happy Sauiour came
That to the world brought loue, ioy, peace and rest:
And did not spare his precious bloud to spil
Condemned mans saluation to fulfill.

All

72

All honor praiſe and glory due be done,
To her whoſe ſeed hath conquered death & hel
A happy mother of a royall ſonne,
Before whoſe throne, ſhe doth in glory dwell,
Where ſhe with Angells & Ark-angells ſings
Sweet haleluiah to the King of Kings.

73

This bleſſed woman if I could not find,
An other ſubiect to defend their caſe, (blind,
Might well perſwade men, if they were not
With enuious malice, void of humaine grace:
To ſtriue as much, their honor to maintaine
As they purſue thē with ſuch foule diſdaine.

74

A ſecond *Mary* doth this firſt ſucceed, (ſpred Mat. 28.
Whoſe loue & zeale, throughout the world is Ioh. 20.
The teares would make a marble heart to bleed, Mar. 16.
VVhich for her deare deceaſed Lord ſhe ſhed:
Deep plung'd in woes, in ſorows great oppreſt
Her minde amaz'd, her ſences diſpoſſeſt.

75

In this ſad paſſion to the place ſhe goes,
VVhereas ſhe thought our bleſſed Sauiour lay
No pen ſo dolefull can expreſſe her woes,
VVhen ſhe perceiu'd the body ſtolne away,
A freſh ſhe wept, & down her head ſhe hung
Like lapwings ỳ are robbed of their yong.

76

The precious ointment ỹ with her ſhe brought,
That glorious body to imb lme and keepe,
She nought reſpects, ſince it was gon ſhe ſought
She ſighes & ſobs, & doth not ceaſe to weepe:
Like *Niobe* this woſull womans feares,
As if ſhe would diſſolue herſelfe in teares.

77

Then came the good Apoſtles to the graue,
Frō whēce they foūd his corpes cōuai'd away;
Feareing the Iewes, were glad thēſelues to ſaue
And ſoone return'd, not daring long to ſtay:
Whē *Mary* ſtil ſtood weeping at the tombe
And would not ſtirre for deaths moſt cruell (doome.

78

But down her head ſhe bowed into the graue,
Scarce giuing credit to her woſull ſight,
Where loe at either corner of the caue,
She ſaw an Angell cloathed all in white:
Whereat agaſt ſhe would a ſide haue ſtept,
Had they not ſpake & aſkt her why ſhe wept.

79

For him I wept, ful fraught with greife ſhe ſaid,
Whoſe like on earth, ſhal neuer more be foūd,
VVhom curſed Iewes moſt cruelly betray'd,
And now haue ſtoln him frō this bleſſed groūd
They comfort her, & ſay, thy teares refraine,
For he thou ſeek'ſt, is raiſ'd to life againe.

But

80

But ſhe continues ſtill her wofull cheere,
And to her woes no comfort would allow,
Vntill our Sauiour did himſelfe appeare,
And aſkt her, woman, wherefore weepeſt thou:
She taking him, the Gardner ſure to be,
Said ſir, if thou haſt hid him, giue him me.

81

And Ieſus anſwered, *Mary*, I am he
Thou ſeekeſt ſo, wherefore be not afraid,
Goe to my brethren, and report of me,
That thou haſt ſeene, & heard what I haue ſaid:
And will them into Galile to goe,
VVhere I will ſhortly meete with them alſo.

82

Twixt greife and ioy ſhe ſtood amaz'd a while,
Then downe ſhe falls, and worſhips at his feet,
And with a louing entermixing ſmile,
VVith teares of mirth ſhe doth our Sauior greet
And to perform his wil with reuerence due,
She roſe, ſhe went, ſhe ranne, ſhe rather flue.

83

Vntill ſhe came where the Apoſtles were,
Deep plung'd in ſorow, & with griefe oppreſt,
To whom ſhe did this ioyfull newes declare,
All ſhe had heard and ſeene, ſhe there expreſt:
VVhich done, ſhe ſtrait returned back to find
The company that ſhe had left behind.

84

Another ſacred *Mary* with her came,
And with them alſo many women more,
For ſaue the Apoſtles (to their laſting fame)
VVere none but women did his death deplore:
Earely they roſe before the breake of day,
Meaning frō thence to take the corps away.

85

A fourth moſt ſacred woman of this name,
Doth with the reſt preceding well agree,
A woman filled with religious fame,
At Ieſus preaching ſhe would euer be:
In humble maner, ſeated at his feete,
To heare his wiſdome, & his doctrine ſweet.

86

Ioh.11. 15. Her ſiſter *Martha* muſt not be forgot,
A moſt renowned woman full of faith,
Whoſe loue vnto our Sauiour ceaſed not,
And as the holy Scripture plainly ſaith:
Chriſt Ieſus likewiſe loued them againe,
Whō men would ſeem ſo ſlightly to diſdain.

87

One only brother theſe two ſiſters had,
Who accedentally fell ſicke, and di'd,
But hearing Chriſt was cōming, they were glad
For on his power, theſe women much reli'd:
Which did alay, and mittigate their griefe,
Hoping by him, they might yet find releife.

Mar-

88

Martha went forth her louing Lord to meete,
And humbly proſtrate at his feete ſhe fell,
Saying ô Lord, and my redeemer ſweet,
Hadſt thou bin here my brother had bin well:
But this I know vndoubted truth to be,
What ere thou askeſt, God will giue it thee.

89

Then Ieſus ſaid, thy brother ſhall ariſe,
Yes at the reſurrection Lord I know,
I am the reſurrection he repli'd,
Both of the liuing and the dead alſo:
Who this beleife ſhall ſtedfaſtly retaine,
Though he were dead, yet ſhal he liue again.

90

Beleiu'ſt thou this? Lord I beleeue it all,
And that thou art, that Sonne of God now ſent
That ſhould redeem poore ſinful man frō thral
If he beleeue, becomming penitent:
O rare beleife, and faith of women kind,
Proceeding from a pure vnſpotted minde.

91

Then backe ſhe came and did her ſiſter call,
Who haſtely went forth her Lord to meete,
And with an heart oppreſt with griefe doth fal
With bitter teares before her Sauiours feete:
And with a mournful voice, O Lord ſhe cri'd
Had'ſt thou bin here my brother had not di'd.

92

Be preſent with me euery wofull wight,
Whō doleful griefe hath turn'd to duſt & mold,
Euen in your ſaddeſt,& moſt mournfull plight,
Let me your gaſtly viſages behold :
I may expreſſe the agonie he felt,
And marble hearts into compaſſion melt.

93

VVhen in the ſpirit he did grone with paine,
VVhich did his ſad and heauy heart moleſt,
How with a troubled ſoule he gron'd againe,
Oh wherewith can his torments be expreſt :
VVho could not be diſburthned of his cares,
Vntill his paſſion burſt it ſelfe in teares.

94

Oh ỹ mine eyes to conduit pipes would turne,
I might his teares perpetually deplore,
VVeepe ſinfull man,& do not ceaſe to mourne
Chriſts tears,althogh thou neuer weptſt before
Shed now a teare from thy obdurate eye,
Or elſe hereafter be for euer dry.

95

In this ſad plight vnto the tombe He went,
VVhereas deceaſed *Lazarus* was laid, (ſent,
VVhere firſt he pray'd to God which had him
Then *Lazarus* come forth, alow'd hee ſaid,
who ſtrait came forth,boūd hand & foote alſo
Chriſt willed them to looſe and let him goe.

VVho

96

Who can expreſſe the faithful thanks they giue
To magnifie this miracle he wrought,
Whereby they ſaw their deareſt brother liue,
Which was a worke impoſſible they thought:
With ioyfull harts they doe not ceaſe to ſing
Continuall anthems to their heauenly King.

97

Now ſhortly after Ieſus came againe
To *Maries* houſe as he had done before,
With heauenly ioy ſhe doth him entertaine,
Who for her brother lou'd him more & more:
And as at meate with *Lazarus* he ſat,
Vnder the table to his feete ſhe gat.

98

Whereon ſhe doth a coſtly oile beſtow, Ioh. 12.
VVherwith ſhe waſht thoſe euer hallowed feet
Too pure ſhe thought on mortall groũd to go,
And kindly giues him many kiſſes ſweet:
Not knowing how ſhe ſhold her loue declare
This done ſhe takes and wipt them with her (haire.

99

But his Diſciples murmuring, him told
This precious oile ſhould be eſteemed more,
VVhich for 3 hundred pence might haue bin (ſold,
And better far bin giuen to the poore:
But Ieſus ſharply them rebuking ſaid,
Let her alone, why trouble you the maid.

The

100

The good that ſhe had done he doth vnfold,
Saying, the poore ſhall daily on you call,
But me you ſhortly ſhall no more behold,
She brought this balme to bury me withall:
Where ere mẽ preaching ſhal ỹ Goſpel name,
This ſhalbe ſpoken to her laſting fame.

101

The faith of women all men may behold,
As in this following ſubiect well appeares,
Who had a bloudy iſſue long, and could
Receiue no helpe by phiſicke many yeares:
Beleeued if ſhe might Ieſus garment touch,
She ſhould be whole, her faith & zeale was

102 (ſuch,

Mat. 15. With this ſtrõg hope ſhe thruſt into the preaſe,
And touching but his very garments hemme,
Immediatly ſhe felt the iſſue ceaſe,
O famous faith, ineſtimable iemme: (ſee,
He knowing what was done, lookt back to
And miſſing her, askt who hath touched me?

103

But ſhe that knew, what miracle was wrought,
VVith feare and trembling at his feete did fall,
And for his mercies ſake, ſhe him beſought,
To pardon her, and therewith told him all:
He ſaid O woman, with a voice moſt free,
Great is thy faith, and it hath ſaued thee.

Next

104

Next ſee the woman that in Canan dwelt,
By faith beleeues his mercies to obtaine,
How earneſtly ſhe with our Sauiour dealt,
Haue mercy on me Lord, ſhe cri'd amaine:
And heale my daughter being ſore perplext,
VVho with a diuell cruelly is vext.

105

He heard her well, but did no anſwer make,
Till his Diſciples ſaid, ſend her away,
She followed ſtill, and would not him forſake,
Though he to her with bitter words did ſay:
It is not lawfull woman I ſhould giue,
To dogs the childrens bread whereby they liue.

106

True Lord ſhe ſaid, and yet the dogs doe eate,
The croms which from their maſters tables fal,
And ſtill for mercy ſhe doth him intreate,
VVho wondred at her faith, and ſaid withall:
O happy wight with heauenly faith inſpir'd,
Be it vnto thee as thou haſt deſir'd.

107

And in ỳ houre her daughter was made whole,
Vnto her euerlaſting ioyes increaſe,
VVith faith as ſtedfaſt as the fixed Pole,
According to his will ſhe went in peace:
Oh faith moſt rare, ỳ like hath not bin found
Worthy in leaues of marble to be crown'd.

The

108

Luk. 7. The ſinfull woman of the cittie Nain,
Doubts not by faith but ſhe ſhal purchaſe grace
And weeping at his backe ſhe doth remaine,
A little while in moſt perplexed caſe:
Then down ſhe falls, and with a ſea of teares
His feete ſhe waſht, and wipt them with her

109 (haires,

Anointed them, and gaue them many a kiſſe,
VVhereat the Phariſe in himſelfe did ſay,
VVhere he a Prophet, as men ſay he is,
Hee'd know this ſinner, and not let her ſtay:
When Ieſus knew his thought, *Simon* ſaid he,
There is a queſtion I muſt aske of thee.

110

A certaine lender, lent a little ſumme
To one; and to another lent a great,
But neither able when the time was come
To pay: forgaue them both their ſeueral debt:
Now which of theſe think'ſt thou, will loue him better?
He anſwered, I ſuppoſe the greater debter.

111

VVell haſt thou ſaid, our Sauiour then repli'd,
Seeſt thou this woman that by faith is led,
Yet ſince I came, thou neither didſt prouide
To waſh my feete, nor yet anoint my head:
She hath done both, no kiſſe of thee I got,
Thy faith is great, ô woman goe in peace.

VVhere

112

Wherefore this woman thou doſt here behold
Whoſe firme beleife, and conſtant faith is ſuch,
As by no mans expreſſion can be told,
Hath much forgiuen her, for ſhe loued much:
To her he ſaid, from ſin I thee releaſe,
Thy faith is great, ô woman go in peace.

113

Elizabeth old *Zacharias* wife, Luk. 1.
A rare example wherein men may ſee,
The bleſſing followeth a religious life,
A faithfull woman ſhe is found to be:
Whom God the Father by his Angells bleſt,
In barren age, and with a ſonne poſſeſt.

104

A child adopted of his ſpeciall grace,
And ſanctifi'd euen in his mothers wombe,
Elect to goe before his gloriousface,
And propheſie that he ſhould after come:
To ſtrengthen thoſe whoſe faith was weake and fraile,
The glory of his people Iſrael.

115

Old *Anna* then a ſacred Propheteſſe,
Who ſerued God with faſting night and day.
Came forth and did her bleſſed Lord confeſſe,
While yet within his mothers armes he lay:
Redemption preacht, to her immortal fame,
To all that did beleeue in Ieſus name.

116

VVhen as our blessed Sauiour did cast out,
Luk.36. The feind wherwith ỹ dumb man was possest,
Incompast with a misbeleeuing rout, (lest:
Whose wicked thoughts their euill minds mo-
To whom whilst he did wholesome doctrine preach,
Which to amend their sinfull life did touch.

117

A certaine woman lifted vp her voice,
And said the wombe had blest & happy lucke,
That broght thee forth, & let those paps reioyce
Which in thy infants daies did giue thee sucke:
This faithfull woman he doth well approue,
Among the rest with deere and tender loue,

118

VVhich loue he doth most manifestly show,
By miracles he wrought from day to day,
Mat.8. 14.15. 16. First vnto *Peters* mother he doth goe,
Whereof a feauer very sicke she lay:
And meerely of his grace it doth him please
To cure her of that dangerous disease.

119

The Ruler then most humbly him besought,
To heale his daughter in extreamest neede,
Mat.9. 23.24. 25. VVho now was at ỹ point of death he thought,
And ere he came the maide was dead in deed:
But Iesus vnto *Iairus* spake and said,
Beleeue thou only and be not afraid,

And

120

And forthwith into *Iairus* houſe he goes,
VVhere did attend him many weeping eies,
The multitude firſt out of doores he throwes,
Then to the maide he went and ſaid ariſe:
And ſhe aroſe with feare and wonder great,
He ſtrait commanded they ſhould giue her (meate.

121

The woman likewiſe that was eighteene yeares
Tormented with a moſt infernall ſpirit,
Bound altogether as moſt plaine appeares,
And could by no meanes lift herſelfe vpright:
Our Sauiour ſeeing ſtraightway did appeaſe,
And freely freed her of that ſtrong diſeaſe.

122

He had compaſſion of the widowes teares,
The which at Nain in Galile he did meete, Luk 7.
For her dead ſonne expreſt with many cares, 10,13.
VVho now to death had pai'd his lateſt debt: 14.
In ſuch a meaſure he could not refraine,
To raiſe to life, and giue him her againe.

123 Iob.3.

The Phariſes and Scribes vnto him brought,
The woman in adultery was found,
T' intrap him ſaid, by *Moſes* law ſhe ought,
For to be ſtoned dead vnto the ground:
But Ieſus ſaid, let him that hath no ſinne,
To execute this vpright law begin.

124

Whereat they all began to ſteale away,
Leauing her ſtanding by her Lord alone,
VVho turn'd a out, and vnto her did ſay.
VVoman, where now are thy accuſers gone:
No man is left ſhe ſaid, was here before,
And I accuſe thee not, go ſinne no more.

125

His loue to women neuer can be told,
See how he doth the widowes mite commend,
Aboue them all that offered pearle and gold,
Saying from ſuperfluitie they ſpend: (glad,
When ſhe poore wight from penury was
To offer to the Lord euen all ſhe had.

126

Ioanna with *Suſanna*, and the reſt,
For there were with them many women more
The which our bleſſed Sauiour diſpoſſeſt?
Of wicked ſpirits, being vexed ſore: (ſought,
Wherefore moſt gratefully they him be-
He would accept the ſubſtance they had

127 brought.

Now laſt of all, as to the croſſe he goes,
To finniſh there his deareſt vitall breath,
A multitude of people ſaw his woes,
But none ſaue women did lament his death:
Luk. 1. 3 27. 28. They weepe and waile, with ſhreekes and piteous cries,
As if they would pull vengeance frō ỹ skies.

Vpon

128

Vpon thoſe curſed misbeleeuing Iewes,
Their bleſſed Lord and Sauiour did betray,
And for reuenge on thoſe that thus abuſe,
This holy Lambe, they neuer ceaſe to pray:
Such gracious loue they did frō him obtain,
They know not how to ſhow their loue a-
129 (gaine.

And after his deceaſe, the Apoſtles found
Moſt vertuous women ſtill in euery place,
Priſcilla was a woman much renown'd.
VVho taught *Apolloes* rare & heauenly grace:
For as this good Apoſtle plainly ſaith,
She tooke him home, & made him ſtrong in
130 (faith.

Saint *Peter* alſo doth as much commend,
Tabitha for her charitable deeds,
Of almes that ſhe vnto the Lord did lend,
Which frō her loue vnto good works proceeds
Who being dead, by prayer he doth obtaine Act. 9.
She is reſtored vnto life againe.

131

Behold what wonders God by womē wroght, Act. 16.
As holy *Paul* doth worthily declare,
To Macedon he is by viſion brought,
VVhere thoſe ỹ heard him only women were:
'Mongſt whom with admiration he doth tell
Of *Lydia*, who there did purple ſell.

132

A faithfull woman, one that God ordain'd,
To saue a kingdome by her good desert,
VVho in the seruice of the Lord remain'd
For it is said God opened her heart:
And she beleeu'd our words & was baptiz'd
With all her housholde as we them aduis'd.

133

This done we were determined to goe,
Along the coasta to make some further tryall,
But she coniur'd vs not to leaue her so,
Her earnest suite would suffer no deniall:
And lo together as we went to pray,
A certaine virgin met vs on the way.

134

Possessed with a spirit of diuining,
By which her master much aduantage got,
To vs she was with feruent zeale inclining,
Act. 16. And for her masters proffitt cared not:
16. She follow'd vs and cride, these men are they
That to saluation teach the ready way.

135

And many daies continued in the same,
Till *Paul* was griev'd for her, and turn'd about,
And to the Spirit said in Iesus name,
I charge thee from this woman get thee out:
And it obey'd that all commanding power,
Departing from her at that instant houre.

And

136

An other woman he doth straight recite, Ram. 1. 16.
He did in Athens at his preaching find.
Cald *Damaris* a most beleeuing wight.
VVith whom *Triplena* may be wel combin'd;
Triplena doth with *Persiis* well accord,
All faithfull women labouring in the Lord.

137

Amongst this crue he highly doth commend,
Phœbe a seruant of the Lord saith he,
For whom he doth vnto his brethren send,
That in the Lord we might receiued be:
And ayded by them in what ere she needs;
For she hath done most charitable deeds.

138

The blest Euangelist Saint *Iohn* doth write,
Vnto a Lady whom he calles elect,
A virtuous woman who doth much delight, 2. Ioh. 1.
The lawes of her Redeemer to respect:
And taught her children likewise to fulfill,
Our blessed Lord and Sauiours holy will.

139

For which saith he I doe not onely loue,
This most renowned woman of our dayes,
But all those Saints that loue the truth approue
Her zealous workes with euerlasting praise:
Which they in greater estimation hold,
Then *Tagus* wealth, or *Ophirs* purest gold.

140

Thus in this ſacred booke of bookes we ſee,
The bleſings God on women did beſtow,
VVhich worthyly they did deſerue ſaith he,
From whom ſuch faith, ſuch loue, ſuch zeale did flow:
Such courage braue, ſuch reſolutions rare,
As monuments of marble ſhall out weare.

141

The hiſtories that doe their praiſe recite,
In euery age ſo plentifull appeares,
That if I had ability to write,
I ſhould not finiſh, liuing *Neſtors* yeares:
Such monumẽts vnto their fame they build
A magaſine might with the bookes be fil'd.

142

Yet to auoid the captious baſe report,
Of Puritant or Bible bearing poet,
As likewiſe to content the wiſer ſort.
On whom alone I freely doe beſtow it:
I will inſert of womens vertues rare,
A ſtanze, or two what hiſtories declare.

143

Iuſtin. For chaſtitie behold that Roman dame,
That proud *Tarquinius* baſely did ſubdue,
Diſdaining to out liue her forced ſhame,
Did in her deareſt bloud her hands imbrew:
For wch ſhe is throwout the world renownd
And by the pens of *Lawreat* Poets crown'd.

Vn-

144

Vnmatched *Ouid* doth as much commend, *Ouid.*
Penelope Vlisses constant wife,
Whose widowed hands the hanging web doth rend,
Whilst he in Lacedemon leades his life:
Euen like the Turtle that hath lost his mate,
She doth bewaile her desolate estate.

145

Vnspotted *Daphne* would not be allur'd, *Ouid.*
By powerfull *Ioue*, from whom amaine she flies
When fainting breath, her honors losse assur'd,
Alowd for chaste *Dianaes* helpe she cries:
Whose iust consent, vnto her earnest prayer
The lawrell doth perpetuall witnesse beare.

146

The daughter faire of *Agamemnon* King, *Thucidides.*
Whose loue and beauty was desir'd of many,
Held chastitie so virtuous a thing,
That she would neuer condiscend to any;
But constantly their ardent suites deni'd,
And thus this spotlesse virgin liu'd and di'd.

147

The virgin *Lucia* doth all praise exceed, *Domitian.*
With whom the tirant King was far in loue.
VVhen she perceiu'd it was so sure decreed,
What friendship could not force at last shoud proue:
Her star-like eyes she to the tirant sent,
That thus she might her honors losse preuēt.

Sage

Thucidides.

148

Sage *Fedons* daughter doth amaze my minde,
VVhose father being at a banquent slaine,
By sauage men, who likewise had combin'd,
This vertuous virgins chastitie to staine:
She to auoid this Tyrants fury fell,
Did headlong cast herselfe into a well.

149

Saint *Ambrose* of *Pelagia* writes as much,
VVho with her famous sisters and her mother,
That no rude hād her honors worth might tuch
Themselues did likewise in the water smother:
Such deare respect to chastitie they owe,
Their precious liues they doe for it bestow.

150

Guiceardin.

The Lady *Bona* to her lasting honor,
Whose husband to the holy warres was sent,
Disguis'd to follow him she tooke vpon her,
Both shield & speare, mou'd with a chast intent
Wher brauely she his faithles foes did threat
And rescued him from many dangers great.

151

Braue *Francis Sforsas* souldiers to him broght,
A virgin rare of birth, & beauty great, (soght,
Whom she with friendship prayer & words be-
Then tyrant like the silly maide did threat:
But finding nothing could her honor staine
With gifts & praise he sent her home againe.

The

152

The women of Tutonicaes requeſt,
When noble *Marius* had their husband ſlaine
VVas ỳ they might haue leaue to ſpend ỹ reſt,
Of their vnhappy liues in *Veſtaes* traine:
Where they like chaſteſt turtles wold deplore
Their fatall loſſe, beholding men no more.

153

In Rome a woman being made aquainted, *Cor. Tac.*
With treaſon was 'gainſt *Nero* great conſpir'd,
VVhereof ſhe happened firſt to be attainted,
Of whom the Iudges all the reſt inquired:
With cruell torments ſhe her life did pay,
Yet neuer any party would betray.

154

Renowned *Læna* did in ſunder bite
Her tongue, and ſpit it in the tyrants face,
Becauſe ſhe would no ſecret bring to light,
For which th' Athenians to her laſting grace; *Plinie.*
From whom ſuch rare vnmatched virtue ſprung,
A Lioneſſe ſet vp without a tong.

155

Rare *Nicoſtrata* mother to *Euander*,
Did firſt vnto the Latins ſhew their letters,
VVho till her time in ignorance did wander,
Yet afterwards acknowledge none their betters
In Hiſtory, Philoſophy, or Phraiſe,
Of eloquence deſeruing worthy praiſe.

Aretha

156

Aretha was in learning ſo profound,
That ſhe in Athens publike ſchoole did read
Philoſophie with iudgment graue and ſound,
VVherein ſhe did the learnedſt man exceed:
VVhoſe Auditors as *Pollio* doth declare,
Philoſophers aboue a hundred were.

Pollio.

157

VVhen *Lucius Scilla* was condemn'd to die,
Who falſely had three thouſand Romains ſlaine
That did vpon his word their liues relie,
His daughter *Lœlia* did his life obtaine:
With one oration which ſhe made in Rome
Whereat the Senate did reuoke their doom.

Cicero.

158

Senobia was in learning ſo repleate,
Both Greeke and Latin to her ſons ſhe taught,
And did a rare epitome repeate,
Of all ỹ warres wherwith the Eaſt was fraught:
Athenian Pericles, who ſoar'd ſo high
Did from *Aſpaſia* learne Philoſophie.

Pollio.

159

Cornelia a famous Roman dame,
Such eloquent Epiſtles vſ'd to write,
That *Cicero* a man of rareſt fame,
Cõmends her workes with wonderful delight:
With *Pallaes* help to end rare *Lucan* broght
The battaile *Cæſar* and great *Pompey* fought.

Cornelia the wife of Africanus & Mother to the Grecchi.

Alex-

160

Alexandra, the wife of *Alexander*,
In Iury liu'd a Biſhop many yeares,
Whoſe learned wiſdom like a wiſe commander
Was reuerenc'd both of common-wealth and Peeres: *Eicſebius*
Dona the daughter of *Pithagoras*,
In ſciences a famous ſcholler was.

161

Two Gretian women deepely learn'd indeed, *Plato.*
The loue of *Plato* did ſo highly win, *Laſterna*
That ſeated in his chaire about to read, *Axiothe.*
Before they came he ſeldome would begin:
In them ſaith he, ſage wiſdom doth remaine,
And memory graue maxims to maintaine.

162

In France a ſect of women did remaine,
Cal'd *Druides*, to whom *Aurelian* came, (taine
From Rome to France their counſells to ob-
So much their wiſdom was renownd by fame: *Strabo.*
Mirrha Queene of Lydia men did call,
A giant for her wit, in ſtature ſmall.

163

In Rhodes a Roman and a Greeke fell out, *Eutropi-*
Who both deſir'd their cuntries worth to raiſe *us.*
The Greeke cõteſtȳ Romans were more ſtout
But vnto Greece for learning gaue the praiſe:
Wherin ſaid he our women more doe know
Then you in armes, whereof you boaſt of ſo.

Vpon

164

Vpon which words a mortall warre inſu'd,
'Twixt *Rome & Carthage*, til the *Rodians* came,
VVho earneſtly intreate they would conclude,
To make them empires in this worke of fame:
To whoſe requeſt whē they had both agreed
The noble Rhodians in this wiſe proceed.

165

Ten Greacian women they in Rhodes ordaine
VVith ten of Rome ſhall diſputation hold,
Wch they with ſuch rare learning did maintain,
In leaues of braſſe deſerues to be inrol'd:
For with the *Rhodiās* to their great renown,
with Lawrell wreathes theſe famous women (crown'd.

166

For ſollid ſentences and learning graue,
Vnto the Grecians they the praiſe decreed,
True eloquence they to the Romans gaue,
Wherin they thought they did ẏ Greeks exceed
But from each ſide ſuch vertue rare did flow
As mē could hardly who were victors know.

167

The worthy Rodians in perpetuall praiſe,
That after ages might their vertues ſee,
To each of them a monument did raiſe,
VVhereby their loue ſhall intermixed be:
Twenty huge Pillers of victorious fame,
Whereon was writ each ſeuerall womans name.

168

Two famous Theban virgins being told,
The Oracle had ſaid they ſhould enioy,
A conqueſt from the Orchymenians bold,
If two chaſt virgins ſhould thēſelues deſtroy:
Their country with victorious praiſe to kill,
Coragiouſly their deareſt bloud they ſpill.

169

Braue *Celia*, that King *Porſenna* tooke, *Saluſt.*
VVith whom in hoſtage diuers virgins were,
With courage ſtout, by night his camp forſook,
Gat horſe and ſwame a riuer, void of feare:
VVhereat the King amaz'd without delay.
Did raiſe his ſiege, and went with ſhame (away.

170

Hermonia a Siracuſan maid,
To ſaue her country did her life defie, *Plime.*
The wife of *Aſdruball* was leſſe afraid,
VVhen *Scipio* conquered then himſelfe to die:
Great *Mithridates* wife and ſiſters three,
Shew'd farre leſſe feare of death then he.

171

Reſolued *Portia* hearing this ſad newes, *Portia the wife of Brutus.*
Her husband, and her father both were ſlaine,
That tyranni zing ſorrow ſhould abuſe,
Her noble ſpirit did ſo much diſdaine.
The burning coales to eate ſhe doth deuiſe,
Thus made herſelfe a liuing ſacrifice.

The

172

The pride of *Ægipt* that moſt glorious Queen
Did ſo much ſcorn great *Cæſars* campe to grace
With captiue bands, wher ſhe ſhold ly between
Diſpaire and hope in a contemned caſe:
With poiſoned Aſps, whoſe touch to death doth hie,
Brauely reſolu'd ſhe rather choſe to die.

173

Herodat. *Philip* proclam'd at Scyo euery ſlaue,
That would come forth & with his army hold
With liberty their maſters wiues ſhould haue,
Which when the women heard, like lions bold
They ſally out, and to their great renowne,
Beate *Phillip* and his army from the towne.

174

Iuſtine. The Scyots by th' Egiptian ſore oppreſt,
Vnarm'd to leaue the towne, with them agree,
Wch when the womē heard they could not reſt
Vntill they made them change this baſe decree;
With ſheild and ſpeare vncloth'd they march away,
Telling their foes that this was their aray.

175

Among the Amaſons two Queens they choſe
The forraigne and domeſtique ſtate to guide,
Abroad *Marpeſia* did ſubdue their foes,
At home *Lampeda* all things did decide:
VVith equall iuſtice void of loue or hate,
VVhich made them floriſh in a happy ſtate.

Con-

176

Conſtantinople being round beſet, *Caſſand.*
With furious Gothes that ment it to deſtroy,
The Empreſſe bold to the wall did get,
VVhere valiantly ſhe did them ſo annoy:
That many by her noble hands did die,
The reſt were forſt to raiſe their ſiege & fly.

177

Simeramis deſerues to be inrold, *Inſtine.*
In braſen leaues of euerlaſting praiſe,
Who by her vallour like a Tygreſſe bold,
Her hardy foes inforſt their campe to raiſe:
From Babilon they ſurely thought to take,
Which ſhe with ſhame compeld them to for-
178 (ſake.

Senobia forſt *Aurelian* to confeſſe,
With whom a famous war ſhe long maintain'd
To conquer *Xerxes* was a taske far leſſe, (ſtain'd
Whoſe greatneſſe with the name of feare was
Thē ſtout *Senobia* who with ſpeare & ſheild,
Came like the God of bataile to the field.

179

Penthiſelia that couragious queene,
Encountered braue *Achilles* hand to hand,
Then which a brauer combat nere was ſeene,
Hippolita ſtout *Theſeus* did withſtand:
In ſingle fight their honors to maintaine,
VVhereby they did immortallglory gaine.

180

The Queene of *Carryall*, like the God of war,
Did chase ỹ Rhodians like a hare with hounds,
Against whose valor nothing was a barre,
She burnt the wals, sackt their cheifest townes,
Whereby she forst thẽ to her endlesse fame,
To build her image, and inscribe her name.

181

Immortall *Tasso* thou canst neuer die,
So worthily *Clornidaes* fame to write,
Who boldly durst that champion braue defie,
Renowned *Tancred*, euen at single fight:
And so perform'd ỹ men could hardly know
The conqueror suruiu'd his conquered foe.

182

Vnlanted *Hector* hadst thou liued now,
Intime. How much thy hardest soule wold blush to see
That earths great monarch should be made to bow,
And by a womans hand subuerted be:
Whose valiant head, she frõ his body drew,
And did ỹ same in his owne blood imbrew.

183

Euen as a Lyoncsse doth range the coast,
When she perceiues her whelps are made a pray
So *Thamaris* doth breake through Cyrus host,
And bravely with her sword did make her way
And to her frieds his royal head she brought,
Like *Pallas* with the spoils of *Gergon* fraught.

A-

184

Amongſt theſe Queenes oh let me not forget,
That Queen of Queenes, which in our age did raigne,
Who like a Comet in the ſkie was ſet,
Vnparalleid for euer to remaine:
To write her praiſe, I neuer ſhall aſpire,
Whom euery eye with wonder did admire.

185

The worlds great Artiſt, nature did complaine,
Such beauty rare the earth did not enioy,
And that no other might the like obtaine,
She doth againe this heauenly ſtamp deſtroy:
Then all the powers ſupernall freely came,
And gaue perfection to this matchles dame.

186

Imperious *Iuno* at her feete did lay,
That all commanding Scepter which ſhe bare,
Wherewith ſhe did the pride of Spaine allay,
Supported France the Royall crowne to weare
And Belgia her peereleſſe praiſe may ſing,
Whoſe famous acts all Chriſtendome doth ring.

187

Arete for her Temple choſe her breaſt,
And with faire vertues did it freely fill,
Religious *Veſta* with chaſt thoughts her bleſt,
Minerua gaue her ſacred wiſedome ſtill:
And royall *Ceres* who with a liberall hand,
With great aboundance did inrich her land.

188

The faithleſſe Pagan, miſbeleeuing Turke,
Virginian heathen, with the Indian Moore,
In whō doth nought but ſecret miſcheife lurk,
They all with reuerence did her ſtate adore:
Great giftes they offer to her ſacred ſhrine,
So was ſhe bleſt, euen by the powers diuine.

189

An happy fight this bleſſed woman fought,
Whilſt here ſhe liu'd & wore the royall crown;
Her ſubiects all to peace and loue ſhe brought,
The humble ſpar'd, & beat the haughty down,
Thus left her thron, wch time ſhal quit deſtroy
An euerlaſting kingdome to enioy.

190

But now me thinkes I heare ſome whiſpering ſay,
This fellow ſure fearefully in loue,
Whilſt other ſtraight vnto my charge doe lay,
Some mercinary hire doth him moue:
No, no, my friends, it is a caſe more cōmon,
Wch you forget, my mother was a woman.

191

Whom nature taught me tenderly to loue,
And thinke it is a duty which I owe,
To her and women for her ſake to proue,
The praiſe on them both God & men beſtow;
No art ſo excellent hath euer bin,
But women haue bin famous actors in.

192

Tis true say, they there was a time of olde,
When women sure were better far then now,
Through this opinion diuers men doe hold,
I doubt not but the wiser will allow:
This costome nature doth to all men giue,
To thinke ỳ age is worse wherein they liue.

193

Virgill and *Ouid* many yeares agoe,
Do testifie that then the world was nought,
In stately stile of verse from them did flow,
Their sober lessons publickly they taught:
Homer might come with musike to his whores
Yet wanting mony, get him out of dores.

194

Either these men haue spirits of diuining,
Or else the world stands now as then it did,
If worse, it is by enuious mens repining,
Which if they would conuert from ill to good,
Thousãds of womẽ this bad age might name
That want rare pens to eternize their fame.

195

Like Romes *Colassae* I might write a booke,
Or the Egiptian *Piramid* of old,
If I shou'd strictly striue to ouerlooke,
The vertues rare that are of women told:
Which I referre to men of better skill,
Who can this taske more worthily fulfill.

196

VVherein my pen alreaay is growne dull,
VVanting that tinckture of heroicke ſtraine,
VVith which braue ſpirits of our age are full,
Let this but animate their flowing vaine:
While my poore Muſe ſhal wel contented be
Her humble valley once againe to ſee.

197

Where ſhe with pleaſure, did behold the Beare
The Wolfe, the Swan, ỹ Dragons head & taile,
The no meane Lion, and the fearefull Hare,
The dart which 'gainſt the Griffen did preuaile:
The King of Egipt and his ſtately Queene,
Who for her beauty now in heauen is ſeene.

198

The crowne which *Ariadne* did obtaine,
From *Venus*, for becomming *Bacchus* loue,
The harpe of *Orpheus*, whoſe melodious ſtraine
Made careles beaſts, & ſenceles trees to moue:
The ſonne of *Danaæ* that *Medusa* ſlue,
The waggener that luſtfull *Phedra* ſlue.

199

The ſon of *Ioue* whō Satan would haue ſlaine,
The ſerpent holder bright *Appolloes* ſonne,
The fiſh that ſau'd *Orion* in the maine,
Alcides after all his labor done:
The horſe of *Bacchus* forſt his maſters loue,
The bird ỹ brought faire *Ganymede* to *Ioue*.

The

200

The flying horſe ſprang from *Meduſaes* bloud,
Bellepheron did vndertake to ride,
Who for his paines, was drenched in the floud,
The horſe flew vp to heauē, wher he doth bide:
The triangle which *Ceres* did requeſt,
The Gods to place in heauen amongſt the

201 (reſt.

The wife of *Perſeus*, and the monſtrous whale,
The crow which by the wel the ſerpent found,
Ixions wheele, with *Venus* daughter pale,
The riuer wherein *Phaeton* was drownd:
Chyron that taught *Achilles* great in Greece,
The ſhip that brought home *Iaſons* golden

202 (fleece.

The *Rambe* with *Phirxes* and her ſiſters went,
Ore *Helleſpont*: *Europaes* roring Bull,
The twinns of *Lœda*: *Iunoes* crabe ſhe ſent,
To *Hercules*, who did in peeces pull
The Lion: iuſtice flue from earth to Heauen,
Who by her ballance found mens acts vn-

203 euen.

The Scorpion ſlue *Orion* with his ſting,
Euthemiaes Sonne that with the Muſes ſlept,
Diſguiſed *Pan*, the Boy *Ioues* bird did bring,
The fiſhes *Venus* from the Giant kept:
All theſe the Gods haue ſtellifi'de in heauen,
With *Pleiades*, whoſe number once was

Vntil *Electra* seeing Troian fire,
Shrunke in her head, and neuer since was seene,
Whose griefe doth make my pittying Muse re
Casting her eies vpon the louely greene: (tire,
Where she will mourne, among the shepheards swaines,
Admires high hills, but loue she lowly plaines.

FINIS.